

Many tasked with leading the Kirk forward

During this interim period between called pastors, the Kirk has not only hired Rev. Hyde, to temporarily lead us as the Transition Pastor, but it has also formed several new committees. To understand all the things going on, we have asked our Ministry Architects consultants to help define the different roles and interrelationships of these new committees.

Of course, it's self-explanatory what the Pastor Nominating Committee is doing. But what about their relationship with the Session and Re-Visioning Team? Here is our consultants' explanation:

The Session is taking care of the Kirk as always. They are making sure things are happening; taking care of worship and day-to-day ministry, maintaining the facilities, overseeing the staff, managing finances, and all continuing activities. The Session is the permanent leadership group elected by the congregation. They report to the congregation regarding their work and the status of the church. The Session members are the stewards that God has put in charge of this particular house called the Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines.

The Re-vision Team is tasked with improving the systems of the Kirk. It is like renovating a room in the house. You still live in the house while a room is being renovated. The Re-Visioning Team is the short-term leadership team scoping out Kirk



activities on a broader basis than the Session and they rely on the structure of the Session and the Kirk Budget to implement the changes. They also interact with the PNC regarding the Mission and Vision of the Kirk. They report to the Session and inform the congregation of their progress. The Re-Vision Team will have an end to their work when the house is renovated.

Dave Hamilton, Re-Vision Team member, Administration Committee Moderator

When We Meet

Sunday Traditional Worship
10 a.m.- Sanctuary
Saturday Informal Worship
5 p.m.- Bailey Hall





The Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines has a new logo!

No one seems to know when our current logo was designed or by whom. As part of our website redesign project, we asked design firm, Twilight Social Media LLC., to create a new logo in keeping with current trends.

The Communications Committee reviewed Twilight's suggestions and recommended a "first choice" to the Session. The Session concurred and the new logo was chosen. The design will likely have several variations as fitting for particular applications.

As time goes by you will see the new logo (left) popping up in all the usual places. It will take time to work the logo into our stationery, advertising, and website.

Contributed by Bob Morrow, Communications Committee Moderator

Lunch and Learn features Area Agency on Aging's Dody Roberts

The Area Agency on Aging of West Central Arkansas is a private nonprofit organization which has served Hot Springs/Hot Springs Village area with information and referral services for seniors 60 and over for 50+ years.

Dody Roberts, Development Director & Family Caregiver Program Administrator, was the guest speaker for the February Lunch & Learn program at the Kirk. Many of the attendees had personal experience with various services provided by the Area Agency on Aging and offered helpful tips on tapping into the resources (many of which are free) available through the Agency.

Ms. Roberts explained that the Area Agency on Aging for West Central Arkansas is available to assist if there are questions about:

- Caregiver support,
- Home care aides (both paid and volunteer),
- Financial assistance programs for caregiver short-term respite,
- CHI St. Vincent – McAuley Senior Activity Center on-site weekday meals, recreational and educational activities, and social opportunities for Seniors,
- Meals on Wheels program,
- Free in-home evaluation by a qualified case manager and
- Medicare counseling and education.



Susan Morrow (left) introduces Dody Roberts at the year's first Lunch and Learn.

Bob Morrow photo

For more information on these and other programs provided by the Area Agency on Aging of West Central Arkansas call 501-321-2811 or visit their website at seniorspecialists.org.

Contributed by Susan Morrow, Christian Education Committee Moderator



LUNCH & LEARN

Thursday, April 24
12:00 P.M.

Resources for Filling your Faith Tank:
Kirk Lay Leaders: An Overview of Devotional Disciplines & Resources
Martha Nielsen & Susan Morrow
 Sponsored by Kirk Outreach

BOX LUNCH \$13
 Reserve by April 22
 To reserve a lunch
 contact Susan Morrow at:
susu2morrow@gmail.com
 You may also bring your own lunch!

Bailey Hall, Kirk in the Pines
 275 Asturias Dr., Hot Springs Village



Pianist Scott Carrell entertained with wit and virtuosity

Pianist Scott Carrell concluded this year's HS/HSV Symphony Guild Classical Series held at Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines with an afternoon sampling of piano classics performed with zest. Mr. Carrell currently teaches piano, piano related courses and music theory at Harding University in Searcy, AR. One of Mr. Carrell's compositions, Nocturne (2024) was featured on the program as well as pieces by Beethoven, Chopin, and others. Mr. Carrell's virtuosic flair and informative comments were received enthusiastically by the audience.

The HS/HSV Symphony Guild Classical Series held at Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines in Hot Springs Village gives area residents a chance to come together, enjoy music and experience the beauty of the surrounding woods in the sanctuary. This Classical Series brings top-tier musicians to the community, all while keeping the concerts accessible and intimate.

The HS/HSV Symphony Guild next presents "A Celebration of Music" featuring Ouachita Baptist University Music Department for Dinner and Show on Thursday, May 1, 2025 at Balboa Baptist Outreach



Scott Carrell

Robert Sonnen photo

Center. Dinner begins at 5:30PM and Show follows at 6:45PM. Tickets are available at www.symphonysguild.org.

For more information about the HS/HSV Symphony Guild please visit the guild website.

Contributed by Susan Morrow, Christian Education Committee Moderator

Financial Report- Year to Date February 28, 2025

	Month		Year to Date	
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
General Fund				
Receipts	\$36,643	\$50,343	\$73,285	\$95,899
Disbursements	\$36,643	<u>\$33,911</u>	\$73,285	<u>\$58,405</u>
Difference		\$16,432		\$37,494

Endowment and Program Funds

Checking Balance \$110,263

Special Funds

Memorial Fund \$106,747

Choir Fund \$9,388

Luke 12:48 Fund \$316,062

Endowment Fund \$1,005,314

Maack-Ormsbee Fund \$56,287

Total Special Funds (Dec. 31,2024) **\$1,493,798**

Total All Funds **\$1,604,061**

Mission Offering **\$523**

There has been no shortage of fellowship and wonderful homemade soups at the Kirk's Lenten Lunches following Lent services with memorable and thoughtful reflections by Kirk members.

2025 Lent services and lunches well attended



Jamie Federick photos

Donna Toney sees beauty in a “bear paw” and in us all

Many of you remember our dear brother-in-Christ, Ken Wolfe. Well, Ken was a woodworker and after his passing, Kelle gifted Randy a “chunk” of wood that Ken had kept, I think Kelle called it a bear paw. Knowing Randy was also a woodworker, she thought he might know what to do with it. This clump of wood was gnarly, full of wormholes, spalted, and could fit easily into your hand. Last week, Randy put it on the lathe and turned it. It has become the most beautiful little bowl - beautiful golden to deep brown rosette figures adorn the interior and the outside walls reflect the same marbling.

This reminds me that we may be gnarly, depressed, grumpy, or unpleasant on our exteriors, but God, who has loved us from our “Day #1” to the end knows us from the inside. God knows our experiences, struggles and joys. This abiding love is truly hope for all our days.

Donna Toney

Photo's on the right shows the “bear paw” end result of Randy Toney's artistry. The top photo shows the interior surface of the bowl, and the bottom shows the reverse bottom and pedestal. *Photos by Bob Morrow and Kelle Wolf*



Lenten services and lunches continue April 2nd and 9th

Everyone is welcome to join us in Bailey Hall after the 11:00 a.m. Lent service in the Sanctuary on Wednesdays for Fellowship and the Soup and Bread Luncheons continuing on April 2nd and April 9th.

Please fill out the form in the Church Bulletin if you plan to attend, and if you can bring soup or bread. If you are unable to bring anything, we encourage you to come and enjoy a hot bowl of soup as we all reflect on the meaning of this season of Lent. Place your completed form in the collection plate in the sanctuary narthex. If you have questions please call Pat Kuntz at 501-204-4385.

JESUS LIVES!

PALM SUNDAY

10:00 a.m., April 13

KIRK IN THE PINES

MAUNDY THURSDAY

5:30 p.m., April 17

EASTER

10:00 a.m., April 20

*The Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines
275 Asturias Dr., Hot Springs Village*

Pastor's Corner

In a conversation with one of our parishioners, my mind went to Debi Thomas, who is a monthly contributor to Christian Century. Her latest piece is entitled, *Progressive Christians Should Read the Bible*. Since I couldn't agree more with Debi, I read her comments with great interest, and then found that her experience with the Bible closely relates to my own. She writes...

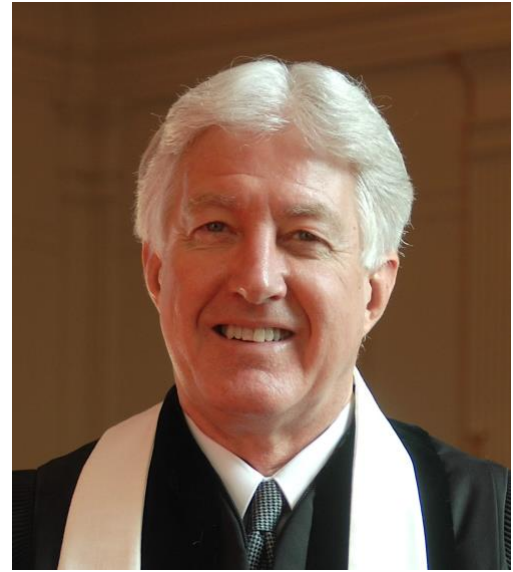
"Raised in a biblio-centric tradition, I was taught that God's word is perfect, devoid of inconsistency or error. Every word in it is intentionally chosen by God, and every event recorded in it is historically accurate.... I was also taught to read the Bible as a straight forward and definitive rule book that covers all bases when it comes to daily living."

I would also add to Debi's comments that we were taught never to put anything on top of the Bible, due to its sacred nature. The book itself, and not just its content, was treated as holy.

"My work now, she continues, is to... reintegrate heart and mind, soul and body. To trust that the God who first met me in the pages of scripture can still meet and nourish me now. She goes on to say, I no longer approach the Bible as a rule book, science manual, or history text. I see it as a rich, multivocal, multigenerational library of conversations about God and with God, undertaken by flawed people who cared about seeking and serving the Divine... And finally, I see the Bible as the opening moves in a conversation that is dynamic and ongoing... Its next pages await our participation. They will be written across our very lives."

So I ask, what is your relationship with the scriptures? Do you read the Bible daily or often, for devotional thought as well as deepening your walk with God? Do you only hear the Bible when it is read at church? How did you approach scripture when you were young, and how do you do it now? Has your understanding grown and evolved, as Debi's experience has been?

I encourage you to knock the dust off your Bible, if necessary, and see it as inspiration for your spiritual journey. Understand that it bears the testimony of flawed people such as ourselves, as Debi puts it, who



Pastor Randy Hyde

had a unique experience with the Divine, and chose to share it with others like you and me. We, you and I, would do well to follow their example. After all, we may be the only Bible some people read.

Appreciately
Randy Hyde

Upcoming Sermons and Texts

April 6, Fifth Sunday in Lent

Fix In Us Thy Humble Dwelling

1 John 4:13-21

April 13, Palm/Passion Sunday

The Lord Needs It

Luke 19:28-40

April 20, Easter Sunday

But...

Luke 24:1-12

April 27, Second Sunday in Easter

On Being Converted All Over Again

John 20:19-31



The Clerk's Corner

**Ruth
Hamilton**



We had an especially good Session meeting this month. It only lasted 1 ½ hours instead of the usual 2-2 ½. Maybe that means we're getting better at this. Good news: the ad hoc search committee charged with finding a new Music Director and Organist/Pianist have been successful. We now again have a full complement of musical staff. Thanks go to Patty Barnes, Clark Mowry and Linda Hommema for first finding Tina Kneisler to lead our music program, and now Kathleen Kinney to play the organ and piano. We are blessed to have two wonderful musicians to help lead us in worship.

More good news: we had another visit from our two Ministry Architects consultants. Sara Bailey and Krista Mulhollen led the Re-Visioning Team in two full days of meetings to create a new Mission Statement, list our important Kirk values and develop 3-year goals. Joined part of the time by Rev. Hyde, Session members and the Pastor Nominating Committee, everyone worked hard to share thoughts and ideas. The result was a communal effort forming a consensus around what we consider the Kirk's vision and mission to be, and some of the action items to help carry them forward.

Highlights of the March Stated Session Meeting:

- **Deaths since February 14, 2025:** none
- **Church Statistics as of March 14, 2025:**
Members—200 Households—135
- Communion was celebrated on February 8/9.
- **Pulpit Supply for Saturday services:** March 1/8/22, April 5—Bill Seitz; March 15/29 —Dale Clancey
- **Transfer of Member:** We have received a letter from Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Hot Springs Village, on behalf of Sharon Collar asking for the transfer of her membership from Kirk in the Pines to Holy Trinity Episcopal Church.

- **New Members:** Ron and Tina Kneisler have asked to join the Kirk.
- **Motion:** Move to welcome Ron and Tina as members of the Kirk. Motion moved seconded and passed.
- We have hired a new organist, Kathleen Kinney. Motion: move to approve the contract to hire Kathleen Kinney as organist to begin on March 19th. Motion moved by the Administration Committee and passed.



"A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you; and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh." —Ez. 36:26 (ASV)

"Life has a way of hardening our hearts. It isn't a terrible instinct either. Sometimes it is all you can do to heal from pain or suffering or lessons we have learned the hard way. Like when the people you trusted let you down.....Life will break you. Nobody can protect you from that, and living alone won't either, for solitude will also break you with its yearning," Louise Erdrich writes in her novel *The Painted Drum*. "You have to love. You have to feel. It is the reason you are here on earth. You are here to risk your heart." So we live here in the messy middle between the beautiful and the terrible, with all the courage and love we can muster, keeping our hearts soft."

Kate Bowler

Contributed by Susan Morrow

Kathleen Kinney brings her organ/piano gifts to the Kirk!

The music ministry at the Kirk is welcoming new leadership. You already met Tina Kneisler, our new Director of Music. Now it's time to meet Kathleen Kinney, our new Organist/Pianist.

Kathleen is originally from Iowa but left there when she was 5. She grew up in California and has been playing piano since age 5. At age 16 she found herself put in front of an organ at church with no prior organ experience. But she has been playing ever since! In fact, she said she has never missed a Palm Sunday or an Easter Sunday except once in all those years! That's dedication!

Kathleen had a studio for 30 years where she taught organ, piano, and voice. She has been in the Village for more than 18 years. And she has been playing for a church somewhere that whole time.

You will probably see her with her nearly constant companion, Sugar, a beautiful Cavalier Spaniel. Please make her feel welcome!

Contributed by Patty Barnes, Communications Committee member



Kathleen Kinney

Patty Barnes photo



Lucy

Wendy Gage photo

Calling ALL Volunteers

Needed for "Blessing of the Animals" to help with parking, information, helping to let people to know where to go, keeping the big dogs away from the medium and little dogs, where the cats should be, keeping order etc. etc. Please call Wendy Gage @ 559-970-9834.

**"ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL
THE LORD GOD MADE THEM**

Join us for...

***Blessing of the Animals
Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines***

2:00 p.m.

May 3, 2025

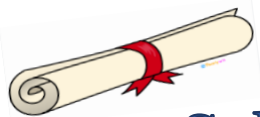


**There will be scripture readings and blessings to
honor our animal friends.**

The blessings will occur in the church parking lot.

Animals must be leashed or crated.

**For questions contact Wendy Gage
559-970-9834**



Maack-Ormsbee 2025-26 Scholarship application cycle opens



We are pleased to announce the opening of the application window for the 2025-26 Maack-Ormsbee scholarship cycle. The application form is available in Bailey Hall and in the Kirk Church Office for eligible undergraduate, graduate, and trade school students seeking financial assistance. The deadline for submitting completed applications and all supporting documents is June 30, 2025.

Susan Morrow, current Kirk Christian Education Moderator, reports that a total of \$27,200 of scholarship awards have been given through the Maack-Ormsbee Scholarship Fund since its inception in 2019 to 12 individuals. She explains that scholarship amounts vary, and funds are paid to a recipient's school as credit toward tuition.

To be considered for a Maack-Ormsbee scholarship, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Members/employees and families of members/employees of Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines, Hot Springs Village, AR with membership/employment for a minimum of Three (3) years.
- Proof of registration at an accredited State University/College. Presbyterian Church USA university or accredited Trade school
- 2 letters of recommendation.
- Minimum of 3.0 GPA

For more information contact Susan Morrow at susu2morrow@gmail.com or 501-231-5541 or the Kirk Church Office at kirkoffice1@gmail.com or 501-922-1333 and then submit an application form either by email or paper submission by the June 30, 2025 deadline.

Kirk members participate in University of Ozarks program

In February we reported on the Thriving in Ministry program at the University of the Ozarks. The Kirk continues to send delegates to these informative and interactive gatherings to share and observe how other fellow churches navigate their similar challenges. Recently, Wendy Gage and Ruth Hamilton participated in a two-day training event at the University of the Ozarks. The first seminar was about prayer. Wendy says, "The training was more prayer as just talking to God. The point was made that we don't need "Churchy Words". God wants us to be real in our love of him. I found this very enlightening."

The Second Seminar was about "Congregational Integration." Again, Wendy shares "It is not so much growing our member numbers but taking care of our current members. Taking care of the members we currently have will bring new members just by word of mouth and our members passing the word that we are a loving and caring church."

This training was made possible by a \$4.8 million grant from Lilly Endowment to the University of the Ozarks to support rural churches. You can learn more about the program by going to <https://thrivinginministry.org/>.

Contributed by Wendy Gage, Outreach Committee Moderator and Bob Morrow, Communications Committee Moderator



"Thank you for 28 years of dedicated service" is inscribed on this beautiful cake presented to Beverly.
Jamie Federick photo



Pastor Randy Hyde (top, left) provided comments to open the special celebration of Beverly Schaumburg's (center, rear) 28 years of service to the Kirk. On the monitor is a tribute video prepared by Sharon Gardner.
Jamie Federick photo

Beverly Schaumburg's career celebrated by many at special reception in her honor



Dick Easter applied his expert skill creating this beautiful wooden plate as a special gift for Beverly.
Robert Sonnen photo



Rosalyn Halbert (left) is shown here with Beverly Schaumburg and the beautiful centerpiece created by Rosalyn for the reception.
Robert Sonnen photo



Happy dates



April Birthdays

4 Pat Kuntz	16 Marty Volkema	23 Jean Fisher
8 Ron Lovett	17 Lu Otto	Doris Simmons
Tom Martick	18 Michael Erickson	25 Bill Bailey
9 Judy Sonnenburg	22 Ruth Richards	26 Sheri Swan
14 Blair Stroud	23 Sandy Adams	28 Ken Poole

April Anniversaries

3 Sandy & Jim Adams	31yrs	15 Beverly & Charles McFadden	18yrs
4 Cindy & Frank Morgan	51yrs		

Dotty Rector appreciates the Kirk's love and support

Thanks to my Kirk family for your help during the first couple of weeks after my right arm fractured. The food, cards, and calls were so supportive and appreciated. The silver lining is that Gary is learning to cook!

Dotty Rector

For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. *Ephesians 1:15-16*

Beverly and Rudy Schaumburg are grateful for years of friendship and support.

Dear Kirk Members,

First, we would like to thank the Greenhorns for the great reception they prepared for us. They made us feel incredibly special. Rudy and I with deep gratitude would like to thank you for the overwhelming love and support we received at the reception.

Thank you for all your cards and gifts. Your notes in them I will read often. You will always have a special place in our hearts.

God's love and blessings,
Beverly and Rudy

Kirk Calendar



(Changes may occur – check with Kirk office)

Office Closed April 21

Palm Sunday, April 13, 10:00 am, Sanctuary
Maundy Thursday, April 17, 5:30 pm, Sanctuary
Easter Sunday, April 20, 10:00am, Sanctuary

Christian Ed. Lunch and Learn, April 24, 12:00 pm

Lenten Services and Lunch, 11:00 am April 2, 9

Ageless Grace/Tai Chi- April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 - 3:30 Bailey Hall

Pilgrimage Renewal- April 5, 10:00, Smallman Parlor

Helping Hands- April 8 -9:00

Choir Rehearsal- Wed. 3:00, April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Committee Meetings

Session- April. 11, 10:00

Administration- April 8, 10:00

Communications- April 2, 1:45

Cong. Care- April 24, 10:00

Finance Committee- TBD

Member Outreach- April 2, 12:45

Missions – April 10, 3:00

Kirk Staff

Randy Hyde- Pastor

Tina Kneisler- Music Director

Kathleen Kinney- Organist/Pianist

Ruth Manweiler- Pianist (informal worship)

Carol Clark- Pastoral Care Coordinator

Chris Taylor-Wilmoth- Secretary

Arthur “Chip” Johnson- Sexton

Session

Clerk of the Session: Ruth Hamilton

Dave Hamilton- Administration

Robert Sonnen- Building

Susan Morrow- Christian Education

Bob Morrow- Communications (Trustee)

Susan Pendergrass- Congregational Care

Pat Kuntz- Fellowship (Trustee)

Sharon Gardner- Finance

Priscilla Hayek- Grounds/Memorial Garden

Wendy Gage- Member Outreach

Judith Rosenthal- Missions

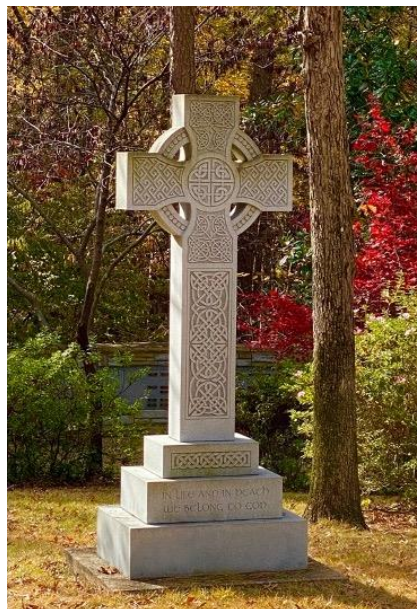
Jane Moore- Worship (Trustee)

PW Moderator- Becky Wakefield

A Voice in the Pines is a monthly publication of Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines. It is produced and edited by the Kirk's Communication Committee, Bob Morrow, Moderator.

Its email address is:

kirkinthepinesvoice@gmail.com



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